

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
124TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed during the Second Regular Session of the 124th Maine Legislature coming from the

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES AND
ENERGY**

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STATE OF MAINE

124TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* summarizes all bills and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the Second Regular Session of the 124th Maine Legislature.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee and within each committee by LD number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are summarized and listed by paper number. A subject index is included with each committee. The appendices include a summary of relevant session statistics, an index of all bills by LD number and an index of enacted laws by law type and chapter number.

Final action on each bill is noted to the right of the bill title. The abbreviations used for various categories of final action are as follows:

<i>CARRIED OVER</i>	<i>Carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature</i>
<i>CON RES XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i>	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN HOUSES</i>	<i>House & Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i>	<i>One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i>	<i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i>	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<i>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i>
<i>FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT</i>	<i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY</i>	<i>Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i>	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed; bill died</i>
<i>ONTP (or Accepted ONTP report)</i>	<i>Ought Not To Pass report accepted; bill died</i>
<i>P&S XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law</i>
<i>PUBLIC XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of finally passed Resolve</i>
<i>UNSIGNED</i>	<i>Bill held by Governor</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i>	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session of the 124th Legislature is Monday, July 12, 2010. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure is specified in the enacted law summary for those bills.

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4. It specifies that community benefit agreement payments to counties acting as host communities may be used for projects and programs of public benefit located anywhere within that county.
5. It requires the Department of Economic and Community Development and the Executive Department, State Planning Office, to the extent practicable within existing resources, to provide assistance to host communities, upon a community's request, in connection with benefits from expedited wind energy developments.
6. It requires the Executive Department, Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security, in its annual assessment and report on wind energy, to include a summary of tangible benefits provided, including community benefits packages and community benefit agreement payments and to review the community benefits package requirement and actual amounts of negotiated community benefits packages relative to the required minimum.

The law also includes several provisions regarding appeals of final actions of the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, the Board of Environmental Protection and the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission with respect to applications for expedited wind energy developments. Specifically, it requires that any appeal of final action in these instances be taken to the Supreme Judicial Court and specifies that the Law Court has exclusive jurisdiction over requests for judicial review of final agency action regarding expedited wind energy developments. It also requires that any judicial appeal of a municipal decision regarding permitting of an expedited wind energy development be heard and determined by the Superior Court as expeditiously as possible.

The law also addresses the costs of and fees for certain applications before the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission and the Department of Environmental Protection. It requires that the director of the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission shall keep billing statements from other state agencies for the actual cost of the application review for a project designated as an extraordinary project. For an application to the Department of Environmental Protection that has been designated by the Commissioner of Environmental Protection as subject to special fees, the law requires:

1. Staff of the Department of Environmental Protection, as well as staff of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the Department of Conservation, the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources and the Department of Marine Resources to submit quarterly reports to the Commissioner of Environmental Protection detailing the time spent on that application;
2. That the processing fee for such an application be equal to the actual cost to the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the Department of Conservation, the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources and the Department of Marine Resources;
3. That the processing fee be distributed to each department that incurs a cost to be deposited in the account in which the expenses were incurred in that department to reimburse the actual cost to that department; and
4. That any appeal of an application fee must be made to the agency of jurisdiction of the application.

LD 1515 **An Act To Amend the Charter of the Caribou Utilities District**

**P & S 29
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
EDGECOMB	OTP-AM	H-614

This bill amends the charter of the Caribou Utilities District by allowing the district to disconnect the water service of a consumer for nonpayment of sewer services and also allows the district to enter into contracts for the disposal of

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sewage with organizations inside and outside the boundaries of the district.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-614)

This amendment adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause to the bill to ensure the Caribou Utilities District has necessary authority immediately to contract with persons inside and outside the district to provide for disposal of sewage and commercial and industrial wastewater.

Enacted Law Summary

Private and Special Law 2009, chapter 29 amends the charter of the Caribou Utilities District by allowing the district to disconnect the water service of a consumer for nonpayment of sewer services and also allows the district to enter into contracts for the disposal of sewage with organizations inside and outside the boundaries of the district.

See also LD 1645 relating to the disconnection of water service of a consumer for nonpayment of sewer services.

Private and Special Law 2009, chapter 29 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 1, 2010.

LD 1516 An Act To Amend the Charter of the Dexter Utility District

P & S 35

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
THOMAS	OTP	

This bill amends the charter of the Dexter Utility District by allowing the district to disconnect a customer's water service if that customer fails to pay for sewer service.

Enacted Law Summary

Private and Special Law 2009, chapter 35 amends the charter of the Dexter Utility District by allowing the district to disconnect a customer's water service if that customer fails to pay for sewer service.

See also LD 1645 relating to the disconnection of water service of a consumer for nonpayment of sewer services.

LD 1525 An Act To Create the Buckfield Water District

P & S 36

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HAYES	OTP-AM	H-649

This bill amends the charter of the Buckfield Village Corporation by amending the corporation's territory, changing how the corporation is managed from a board of assessors to trustees and giving the corporation the authority to operate as a water district. The bill also repeals charters that give the corporation conflicting powers and duties.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-649)

This amendment replaces the bill. This amendment creates the Buckfield Water District, subject to local referendum